

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE
National Urban League

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Reginald A. Johnson, Director
Field Services
and
Mr. Julius A. Thomas, Director
Industrial Relations and Vocational Guidance

FROM: Roy E. Morris, Field Secretary
Department of Industrial Relations

SUBJ: Exploratory efforts in Trenton-Bucks County Area, 2/5/52-2/27/52.

The approximately three-week period of work reported here is one result of the spot survey I did of the Trenton-Bucks County and Philadelphia area during December, and of subsequent conferences regarding the National Urban League position relative to that area. Other National Urban League staff had already participated in several conferences or meetings regarding Bucks County problems and one board member is attempting an approach to NUL interest through personal lay contacts in the area.

My own efforts between 2/5/52 and 2/27/52 were designed to identify local leaders in terms of specific contributions each may offer in a community-wide NUL project to bring about some improvements in the very unfavorable position of Negroes in the new lower Bucks County-Trenton employment, housing, health and welfare developments.

My headquarters were at the Hildebrecht Hotel which proved more and more to provide for free expression of several persons who came to talk with me there. I also spent considerable time in the offices of Mr. Clifford Moore and Mr. Linton Williams (Negro lawyers) and of the (Delaware Valley United Fund) Council of Social Agencies.

Mr. Graham, Executive Secretary of the Delaware Valley United Fund, and Mr. Auerbach, Executive Secretary of the Delaware Valley United Fund Council were conferred with regularly, and therefore were able to provide satisfactory interpretation of our efforts and interests to local officials who might hear about my presence and want to check on my "references."

At least one such call came from Mr. Shriner, Works Manager of the Ternstadt Division of General Motors Corporation, and Mr. Graham's interpretation smoothed the way for a very good conference with him.

At least one conference was held with each of the following persons listed below. The persons were selected after a review was developed of at least their supposed attitudes and activities insofar as they might help or hinder some significant work on emergent Trenton and/or Trenton-Bucks County problems faced by Negroes.

Mr. Peter Auerbach
Executive Secretary
Delaware Valley Council of
Social Agencies
211 West State Street
Trenton, N.J.

Mr. Michael Bodgen, President
Central Jersey Industrial
Union Council
439 South Broad Street
Trenton, N. J.
(National Urban League committee-
man on Delaware Valley United Fund)
Trenton 5-6416

Mr. Dock Caliste
(DVUF Labor Representative and
officer of UAW-CIO)
439 South Broad Street
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 5-6414 and
Delaware Valley United Fund
211 West State Street
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 2-1175

Mr. Collins
38 Bank Street
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 2-9528
(A former Urban Leaguer, and
local businessman.)

Mr. Lloyd Cox
209 Church Street
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 5-6706
(Very active Negro in United Steel
Workers of America-American Bridge
Company local. Chairman, Safety
Committee and Trustee, USW, Local
2670; delegate to Central Jersey
CIO Council.)

Mr. M. Charles Ford, Director
District #7
United Steel Workers of America
Philadelphia, Pa.
Rittenhouse 6-6826

Mr. Graham, Executive Secretary
Delaware Valley United Fund
211 West State Street
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 2-1175

Dr. James R. Granger
235 Spring Street
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 5-6624
(Prominent Negro physician, "formerly
very active.")

Mrs. James R. Granger
235 Spring Street
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 5-6624
(Active civic worker.)

The Reverend Edward H. Holmes, Pastor
Asbury Methodist Church
47 Fountain Avenue
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 2-6970
(Retiring president, Trenton Chapter,
NAACP)

Mr. Henry Johnson, Executive Secretary
Manufacturers Association of New Jersey
363 West State Street
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 4-5256

Mr. T. F. Kinney, Director
Industrial Arts
Trenton Board of Education
Trenton, N. J.

Mr. Harry R. Lesslie
Apprenticeship Coordinator
Trenton Board of Education
Trenton, N. J.

Mr. Lochner, Executive Secretary
Trenton Chamber of Commerce
Hotel Stacy-Trent
West State Street
Trenton, N. J.

Mr. Mauser, Works Manager
American Bridge Company
(USS subsidiary)
501 John Pitch Way
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 9128

Dr. E. G. McGruder
237 Wood Street
Bristol, Pa.
Bristol 3025

Mr. Clifford R. Moore
Broad Street Bank Building
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 6-2711
(Young, active, Negro lawyer; on
NUL Advisory Committee for DVUF)

Mrs. C. R. Moore
237 Spring Street
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 5-5634
(Active civic worker)

Mrs. Charles W. Williams
225 Spring Street
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 3-1125
(Active civic worker)

Dr. Wesley A. Mount
River Road
Croyden, Pa.
Bristol 4345
(Outstanding Negro dentist in
lower Bucks County)

Mr. Shriner, General Works Manager
Ternstedt Division
General Motors Corporation
Parkway Avenue
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 2-4181

Mr. James Stewart, President
De Laval Steam Turbine Company
853 Nottingham Way
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 9281

Mr. Charles Tyson, President
John H. Roebbing's and Sons Company
640 South Broad Street
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 2-7141

Mr. Charles W. Williams, Proprietor
Mercer Floor Waxing Company
Corner Pennington and Calhoun Streets
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 3-9969
(Able civic worker, new President local
NAACP Chapter; Board Member: DVUF,
YMCA, Carver Center)

In addition to those persons mentioned above, Mr. Jacques E. Wilmore came to see me at my hotel, regarding our respective efforts in Trenton. Mr. Wilmore is the new Negro Representative of the American Friends Service Committee, Philadelphia. He was in Trenton to organize a vocational guidance workshop and came to me to request Urban League co-sponsorship. There would be some twelve local agencies acting as co-sponsors, under the guidance of the AFSC. I explained the purpose of my work in the area and stated that I have no authority to decide

on Urban League co-sponsorship of the workshop he is setting up. I pointed out that there is no local Urban League in Trenton and that I, therefore, personally, doubted whether any Urban League co-sponsorship would be proper. Mr. Wilmore remained with me from 4:00 p.m. until 7 o'clock, discussing what he knows of the currently unsettled questions between AFSC and the National Urban League. I interpreted Urban League to him from a variety of angles, to make sure of his opportunity to understand what the role and functions of the Urban League are. He expressed appreciation for my interpretation of the League as well as of the areas in which I, personally, see reason for good cooperation between his agency and mine.

For instance, I pointed out that AFSC has publicly stated some interest in the Bucks County problems and that at least I feel that the AFSC can do an excellent job through its own constituency throughout the Bucks County area. I suggested that its lectureship program be utilized for meetings of local groups, emphasizing the desirability of a democratic housing pattern in new housing developments. I suggested that individual Friends living in the county could be stimulated to invite a Negro to any meeting of general interest to their neighbors, inviting the Negro in terms of his knowledge, experience and/or interest in the major topic for each meeting. Mr. Wilmore said that AFSC has organized a Bucks County Friends Citizens Committee, and that he would raise my suggestions in Philadelphia in the hope that they might be carried officially to their Bucks County Committee. I indicated that I would take up the request for co-sponsorship of the workshop at the National Urban League office.

I attended two meetings of the Trenton NAACP, the Executive Board meeting and a regular (public) monthly meeting. Because of present fears in the white community regarding the NAACP, I attended the Executive meeting only after the insistence of Mr. Clifford Moore, his associate, Mr. Linton Williams, and of Mr. Charles Williams.

The meeting was scheduled for from 8:30 to 10:00 p.m. I tried to time my arrival to be some thirty minutes before the meeting would be over, but it did not adjourn until almost 11:00 p.m. I was asked to speak to the group of about 25 people, and took the opportunity to interpret NUL efforts in Trenton and Bucks County to those present, as individuals. I was emphatic in sketching the boundaries of our work, in an attempt to preclude any misunderstanding and to inspire favorable reactions of those present to any subsequent developments.

The other NAACP meeting was an open forum, entitled, "The Negro in Organized Labor." James Sweeney, Regional Director, CIO, and two other (white) Labor Union representatives—one CIO and one AFL Hotel and Restaurant Workers' representative, composed the speakers' panel. Art Chapin, a Montclair N. J. (Negro) Labor Union worker was moderator. The meeting revealed various NAACP actions in seeking jobs for Negroes and ended with a resolution calling for close cooperation between the CIO regional office and the NAACP in matters of employment of Negroes.

I made innumerable telephone calls to several offices either in attempts to see certain persons, or to get information. Still other individuals were discussed who should be considered in some respective appropriate light regarding present NUL efforts in Trenton and Bucks County. These individuals included:

Mr. Kelley
Mr. Kovacs
United Steel Workers
203 East State Street
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 2-5129

Mr. Alfred Warner
United Steel Workers, CIO
204 Stockham Building
Morrisville, Pa.
Morrisville 74-7166

The Reverend S. H. Woodson, Pastor
Shileh Baptist Church
193 Humbolt Street
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 5-2459

Mr. Ray Chase, Works Manager
American Steel and Wire Company
(A USS subsidiary)
80 Hamilton Avenue
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 9223

Mr. George Otto, President
Penn-Valley Construction Company
Pennsylvania Avenue
Morrisville, Pa.

Mr. Henry Ludtke, Manager
United States Department of Labor
Old Post Office Building
Trenton, N. J.

Mr. Charles Jones, Vice President
J. H. Roebling's Sons and Company
640 South Broad Street
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 2-7141

The Reverend Benjamin J. Anderson
112 Witherspoon Street
Princeton, N. J.
Princeton 1666

Mr. Frank Flatch, President
Bucks County CIO Council, and of
Kaiser Plant UAW Local
Main Street
Bristol, Pa.

Mr. James Sweeney, Regional Director, CIO
25 North Montgomery Street
Trenton, N. J.

Mr. Herbert Bennett
District Director, UAW
Wilkerson Building
East State Street
Trenton, N. J.

Mr. John Tagliarino
Mr. Anthony Zuccarello, PAC Director
Wilkerson Building
East State Street
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 5-3764

Mr. Stanley Renton, President
Vulcanized Rubber Company
5 South Pennsylvania Avenue
Morrisville, Pa.
(Chairman, Lower Bucks County Citizens
Committee on Health and Welfare Needs.)

NEGROES ACTIVE IN LABOR MOVEMENT

Mr. David Johnson (UAW)
152 Perry Street
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 4-4044
(Writes editorials for UAW paper;
Educational Director of General
Motors Local.)

Mrs. Margaret Holmes (ACWU, CIO)
276 Spring Street
Trenton, N. J.
Trenton 5-8473
(Reported to be most active Negro in
Trenton labor movement.)

Negroes in labor movement
(continued)

Mr. Roland Jacobs
Acme Rubber Company
Trenton, N. J.

Mr. DeMitt Wilson
Rice Street
Allentown, Pa.

NEGRO MINISTERS

The Reverend Mr. Grayson
Union Baptist Church
Trenton, N. J.

The Reverend Mr. Bagley
Galilee Baptist Church
Trenton, N. J.

The Reverend D. M. Owens
Mount Zion AME Church
Trenton, N. J.

The Reverend John Wilson
St. Phillip's Baptist Church
Trenton, N. J.

Findings:

The period spent in the Trenton-Bucks County area was successful--additional insight was gained on how best to approach remedial efforts, and local leadership was readied for such efforts.

Certain determining factors found are as follows:

- (1) Trenton leadership and lower Bucks County leadership are not coordinated. Bucks County seems to resent Trenton "guidance", and individuals in Trenton seem interested in letting Bucks County accrue its bad experiences, learn its own lesson "the hard way." There is every indication that any efforts we stimulate in the area should be organized as separate projects--one for Trenton and one for lower Bucks County.
- (2) Trenton Negroes feel very strongly that a local Urban League should be established; that Trenton problems for Negroes are so serious and deeply seated that very concentrated efforts are needed there.
- (3) By being careful not to raise any question of the desirability of a local Urban League while talking with a number of top white officials in Trenton, their statements and attitudes indicated that they would welcome a local Urban League and work with it if properly approached.
- (4) Many Negro and white Trentonians feel that Trenton should receive some special, easily identifiable Urban League work in Trenton, inasmuch as the Delaware Valley United Fund is contributing to the National Urban League. (This feeling was expressed pointedly by both Mr. Graham, DVUF Executive, and by Mr. Auerbach, Council Executive.)

- (5) Exploratory work with topmost industrial officials in Trenton revealed what I consider genuine interest in a special project on the basis of immediate and emergent needs in Trenton itself.
- (6) Exploratory work in lower Bucks County indicated a sense of weighty wonder about the problems of housing and employment for Negroes there. No clear-cut thinking is evident that could be expected to lead to solutions of the problems. It is certain that a longer time will be needed to get any important remedial activity organized and operating. Moreover, as stated above-in "(1)"-the fact that there is current resentment of Trenton leadership means that work in Bucks County should be separate from work in Trenton at each local level.

Conclusions:

The general situation in Trenton and Bucks County shows promise of immediate progress in Trenton, but not for lower Bucks County. The work done in Trenton during the period covered by this report has made possible immediate local remedial effort, involving top Negro-white leadership from almost every important segment or level of the community.

Bucks County requires much more groundwork. More time will be required to discover and indoctrinate local citizens and, by the same token, develop local leadership to the point of making actual organization advisable-that is, with any serious interest in really important work resulting.

Recommendations:

It is urged that decisions be made, as soon as possible, about the following recommendations that:

- (1) Efforts in Trenton and in lower Bucks County should be kept separate at the local level.
- (2) There should be assembled in Trenton, Negro and white leadership for the purpose of forming two groups, one an advisory committee of presidents and/or works managers of local plants and central social agencies, and the other of broader community representation and mainly a working committee including persons best able to find and follow up Negroes who are to benefit from the work.

- (3) The objective of the total organization (the advisory committee and the working committee) should be the initiation of a training program designed to
 - a. provide additional trained workers for fields of occupational shortages,
 - b. remove the bottleneck that is responsible for only a disproportionate and seriously small number of Negroes to be found in highly skilled and technical job classifications, and
 - c. to find, encourage and otherwise aid individual Negroes through whom the first two objectives will be realized.
- (4) The group organized in Trenton should be expected to become a local Urban League organization, after the immediate project has become successful, and National Office relationships with Trenton and with this temporary group should keep this eventuality in mind.
- (5) Lower Bucks County should be the center of additional exploration, laying the groundwork for special and important efforts. However, present plans of activity on the part of other National Urban League staff and board members should be considered supplemented by the work done in Bucks County itself. The two approaches should be considered equally important.
- (6) The recommendation I made in the "Report on Bucks County", dated 12/12/51-12/20/51, which urged that \$75,000 be secured as soon as possible for an all-out NUL program in Bucks County, should be considered as important. The period of exploration (reported above) underscores the need and reasonableness of the recommendation. It is urged that we move in the direction of a special and truly important effort in Bucks County as outlined in my previous report.

cc: Mr. Granger, Mr. Moss
Mr. Johnson
Mr. Jackson, Mr. Alston
Mr. Parris
Dr. Banner, Mr. Tucker
Mr. Pope, Mr. Finley, Miss Tannayhill

March 7, 1952